

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 CU-04 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 /081 W
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FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6140

C O N F I D E N T I A L TAIPEI 0351

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM, ASEC, TW
SUBJECT: SENTENCING OF SIX MEMBERS OF TAIWAN PEOPLE'S LIBERATION
FRONT

REF: TAIPEI 0275

1. EMBASSY OFFICERS (ONE POLITICAL AND ONE CONSULAR)
ATTENDED THE SENTENCING OF SIX MEMBERS OF THE TAIWAN
PEOPLE'S LIBERATION FRONT AT THE TAIWAN GARRISON COMMAND
MILITARY COURT ON JANUARY 17. THE SENTENCING, WHICH TOOK
A LITTLE OVER A HALF AN HOUR, ANNOUNCED THE FOLLOWING:

TAI HUA-KANG WAS SENTENCED TO LIFE IMPRISONMENT

LAI MING-LIEH WAS SENTENCED TO 15 YEARS IMPRISONMENT
AND EIGHT YEARS DEPRIVATION OF CIVIL RIGHTS

LIU KUO-CHI WAS SENTENCED TO 12 YEARS IMPRISONMENT
AND SIX YEARS DEPRIVATION OF CIVIL RIGHTS

THESE THREE HAVE NOT YET DECIDED WHETHER TO APPEAL. THEY
MUST DO SO WITHIN 10 DAYS.

TS'AI YU-JUNG, CHENG
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AO-CHUN, AND WU HENG-HAI WERE
ALL SENTENCED TO THREE YEARS IN REFORMATORY AND DO NOT
PLAN TO APPEAL.

2. COMMENT: SENTENCING WAS GENERALLY A CUT AND
DRIED AFFAIR. THE AUDIENCE OF OVER 50 PEOPLE BETRAYED
NO REACTION TO THE SENTENCES EXCEPT FOR A FEW FAMILY

MEMBERS WHO WERE VISIBLY DISTRESSED. OVER 20 JOURNALISTS WERE PRESENT, INCLUDING MOST OF THE FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS RESIDENT IN TAIPEI. PHOTOGRAPHERS IN PARTICULAR WERE INTERESTED IN RECORDING THE PRESENCE OF EMBASSY OFFICERS WHO SAT IN THE FRONT ROW WITH TWO FOREIGN MINISTRY ESCORTS. (PHOTOS, WITH IDENTIFYING CAPTIONS, APPEARED IN SEVERAL PAPERS THE NEXT DAY, BUT THERE HAS BEEN NO PRESS COMMENT YET ON OUR PRESENCE.)

3. DURING PRE-SENTENCING DISCUSSION WITH CHIEF JUDGE ADVOCATE MAJOR GENERAL CHOU CHI-LING, AND DURING CONVERSATION WITH FOREIGN OFFICE ESCORTS, EMBASSY OFFICER MADE POINT THAT WE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE MORE TIMELY INFORMATION REGARDING SECURITY CASES. GENERAL CHOU UNDERTOOK TO RESPOND MORE QUICKLY AND FULLY TO OUR REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION WHICH WE WILL CONTINUE TO PASS THROUGH THE FOREIGN MINISTRY.
UNGER

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